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THE MEDICAL NEWS AND LIBRARY.

VOL. II.

SEPTEMBER, 1844.

No. 21.

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FORTY-EIGHT PAGES.

CLINICS.

Clinical Lecture delivered at the GREAT CHARITY HOSPITAL, Berlin, by Dr. SCHONLEIN, first physician to the King of Prussia, founder of the Natural System of Medicine in Germany, and Professor of Pathology and Therapeutics in the University of Berlin.

Icterus after the use of mercury.—Itching sensation in the skin.—Delirium.—Tendency to the deposition of fat.—Death.—Result of post-mortem examination.—Epicrisis.—Cirrhosis hepatitis.
Dec. 8th, 1840.—Caroline Buvvert, 28 years of age, servant girl. We have recently spoken of one of the most dangerous forms of icterus, which is produced after having taken mercury for the removal of syphilis. I have observed several such cases in syphilitic women, at the Julius Hospital

at Wurzburg, even a long time after the administration of the mercury; the present seems to be a case in point. The patient had been affected with syphilis several times, and had been in the syphilitic ward of the hospital a year and a half ago. The icterus, now presenting itself, is of a very intense character; the patient looks as if she had been dyed, or painted with turmeric. She complains of continued hiccup, nausea and vomiting; the matter ejected consists of the food taken, mixed with a white mucus, slimy, without any appearance of bile. The urine is of a dark-red colour, and on analysis is found to contain the elements of bile; the tongue is clean; thirst considerable; the fever moderate; pulse 90 per minute, tolerably full and not hard; the skin dry, rather cool; that of the chest and arms is abraded by scratching, in consequence of the insupportable itching produced by the colouring

Published Monthly by LEA & BLANCHARD, Philadelphia, at One Dollar a year, and sent GRATUITOUSLY to all subscribers to the American Journal of the Medical Sciences, who remit the annual subscription, Five Dollars, in advance. See Prospectus in full on Number Twelve.

¶ In no case will this work be sent unless the money is paid in advance.

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matter of the bile depositing itself beneath the papillæ of the skin. The delirious state of the patient depends on the deposit of a similar kind of matter on the membranes of the brain, and the consequent irritation caused by it. Violent delirium is first produced in such cases, which, subsequently, on effusion of serum taking place, becomes converted into sopor. The abdomen is not disturbed, nor is it painful on pressure; no swelling perceptible in any organ.

Prescription.—*Potio Riveri* with *aq. laurocerasi* for internal use; application of vinegar to the head.

Dec. 9th.—We stated our conjecture as to the originating cause of the disease; to remove any doubt, however, it will be necessary to ascertain what treatment she had undergone for the syphilis; what preparations of mercury had been prescribed, and under what circumstances it had been employed. As yet we have not been able to learn any thing regarding it. A fact favourable to our view is this: that the patient has suffered from symptoms of affection of the liver ever since that time, particularly from dyspeptic attacks. The icterus, however, only showed itself during the last fortnight. This form of icterus I have particularly observed in women, and it is generally attended with a remarkable tendency to corpulency,—a condition which is exhibited in this patient; a similar effect is also produced by some other metallic remedies; antimony, for instance, is employed for the purpose of fattening pigs and geese; arsenic is said to be employed for similar purposes in India.

Violent delirium manifested itself last night, which, as already observed, has its origin in the deposit of the colouring matter of the bile on the membranes of the brain; (I have never found the substance of the brain itself coloured yellow in such cases); it subsided again towards the morning. The state of the patient is pretty nearly the same as yesterday; the vomiting, however, has disappeared; the stools are hard and light-coloured.

With regard to the treatment of the present case: the principal remedy against diseases of the liver, mercury, would not here be applicable, unless, indeed, we adopted *Hahnemann's* doctrine of "similia similibus." I would propose the "iodine" in this instance, because it forms the antidote to mercury in its effects, and also because it

acts on the absorbent system. No great hope, however, can be entertained of the treatment in a form of disease so far advanced, and where, probably, cirrhosis of the liver has already taken place. The cerebral irritation in the present instance is also a bad sign.

Prescription.—*R. Tr. iodin. gtt. xx.; Aq. meliss. 3iv.—Mix.* A tablespoonful to be taken four times a day; a spoonful of the *electuarium lenitivum* to be taken in the evening. Continue the vinegar to the head.

The solution of iodine was shortly obliged to be discontinued, by reason of the vomiting which it induced. The state of the patient in every other respect remained the same, until the night of the 11th December, when the vomiting increased and death suddenly took place, respiration having become stertorous a short time previous.

Result of the post mortem examination.—The liver had decreased in substance, was soft, unusually full of blood, of a black colour, and found to be in a state of cirrhosis. The gall-bladder was contracted, but filled with a light-coloured bile. The biliary ducts were free; the icterus was, therefore, from no mechanical cause. All the serous membranes, the peritonæum, the pleura, the pericardium, &c., were of a dark orange colour; not so the mucous membranes nor the kidneys. No changes in the lungs and heart, excepting that the internal membranes of the vessels had a slight yellow tinge. Finally, the membranes of the brain, the external as well as those lining the ventricles, were impregnated with the colouring matter of the bile; the proper substance of the brain, however, had its normal colour; the anterior and posterior commissures, the fornix and the septum lucidum, seemed to be rather soft and infiltrated with a yellow liquid. No effusion of serum.

Epicrisis.—We conjectured that the case before us was dependent on a former mercurial course, since the patient had been twice in the syphilitic division of this hospital. The journal, kept during her stay at that period, however, does not altogether justify this conjecture; as the patient, when here for the first time, was treated after the so termed "English method," but the second time with iodide of potass. It is, however, probable that the medical man, under whose care she previously was, had administered large doses of mercury, because she had already taken this medicine previous to her

entry into the hospital. No inference, therefore, can be drawn from this.

With regard to the symptoms of the disease, I beg to direct your attention to the two following points:—

1st. The restlessness and delirium, always so unfavourable a symptom in icteric patients; this is caused by the deposit of colouring matter of the bile on the membranes of the brain, and particularly on the pia mater and the lining of the ventricle. The same kind of irritation takes place here as on the skin, where, as you will remember, so insupportable an itching exhibited itself as to induce the patient to scratch herself violently. This deposition occasions not only excitement, delirium, &c., in the brain, but also exhibits its effects in the chest: inducing pleuritic irritation, which increases to the most violent phenomena of inflammation, and rapidly terminates in effusion of serum. I have frequently observed this phenomenon in icteric patients, and to no other cause can it be attributed than to this deposit: violent pains suddenly take place in breathing; all the phenomena of pleuritis are developed and speedily terminate fatally:—in 24 or 36 hours, ending in the production of acute hydrothorax.

2d. We had, even during life, expressed our opinion, that cirrhosis of the liver existed, and this has been confirmed by dissection. The substance of the liver in cirrhosis usually diminishes, frequently to an extraordinary extent; the right hypochondrium, in this patient, was found to be quite empty, and the liver could scarcely be felt on pressure under the false ribs. Cirrhosis is mostly combined with atrophy; and when the latter exists, cirrhosis also may generally be presumed. This disease may, however, be accompanied by hypertrophy, in which case the diagnosis will not be difficult, since the state of the organ then becomes appreciable to the touch. The serous portion of the blood in this patient was of a clear yellow colour, and, on analysis, Dr. Simon found the colouring matter of bile in it, but not the other constituents; whilst colouring matter, as well as resin of bile, were found in the urine.

The death of the patient took place suddenly, no urgent symptom being apparent an hour before; rattling in the throat came on, accompanied by insensibility, and thus the patient died through paralysis of the brain, which seems to have been produced

by the deposit above spoken of; since neither extravasation of blood nor effusion of serum was found on the brain; indeed, the ventricle was quite empty, and did not contain the quantity of water usually found there in chronic diseases.—*Medical Times*, July 27th, 1844.

SKETCHES AND ILLUSTRATIONS OF MEDICAL QUACKERY.

Mesmeric Exhibitions.—A very skilful *artiste*, a Mons. Alexis, has been recently astonishing the Londoners by his wonderful feats in mesmeric divination, and especially his facile and unlimited power of *clairvoyance*. He has been the rage in all the aristocratic circles, and of course the pet, pride and glory of all professed mesmerists, and his triumphs even comprehended some sober men of science, who were simply desirous of ascertaining the truth.

Dr. John Forbes, the distinguished editor of the *British and Foreign Medical Review*, desirous of witnessing the performances of Alexis and of having his doubts settled on a matter of such extreme curiosity and importance, attended two of his exhibitions, and in an article in the *Lancet* of the 3d of August, has given an interesting account of what was enacted on those occasions. We have only room for Dr. Forbes's conclusions, which are as follows:—

“ 1st. That the whole affair bore the complexion of trickery, or, at all events, that it wanted entirely the precision requisite in scientific inquiries.

“ 2d. That the total amount of positive failures and positive blunders greatly exceeded that of performances having even a colour or slight degree of success.

“ 3d. That the failures occurred in cases where the circumstances were such as to exclude collusion and the exercise of ordinary vision.

“ 4th. That all the instances of success occurred where circumstances allowed of collusion or ordinary vision.

“ 5th. That in all of the cases of success such collusion or vision was either proved or rendered extremely probable.

“ 6th. That there was not one single unequivocal example of what is called *clairvoyance*.

“ 7th. That, consequently, this exhibition not only affords not one tittle of evidence in favour of the existence of this faculty in the man Alexis, but presents extremely strong

grounds for believing that the pretended power in him is feigned, and that he is consequently an impostor.

"From what I witnessed at this exhibition, and at another where it was pretended that the so-called somnambulist exhibited the faculty of having the phrenological organs excited individually by mesmerism, I am much more satisfied than I used to be in regard to the probable causes of the extensive belief in the wonders of mesmerism. On both these occasions it was clear that many of the spectators were either totally unacquainted with the laws of evidence, or that their enthusiastic temperament, or previous convictions or prejudices, rendered them, for the time, incapable of appreciating, or of being guided by, such laws. They admitted, as positive facts, what appeared to calm, unprejudiced observers, not only not facts, but the merest assumptions, unsupported by a tittle of the kind of evidence required in scientific investigations. It was also evident that there was, among such persons, an endeavour to *help* the exhibitor to get at the results proposed, and an eagerness to believe every thing without question, and with a proneness of faith unjustifiable, and therefore never admitted, in inquiries of a scientific character. A further source of fallacy existed in the circumstances in which the great majority of the spectators were placed, viz., the utter impossibility, owing to their distance from the scene of action, of their seeing *exactly* what took place, so as to enable them to guard against the possibility of mistakes, misstatements or collusion. These circumstances, taken in combination with the natural tendency of the human mind to believe rather than to be sceptical, and with the proneness of mankind in general to recollect successful wonders, (especially in the way of guessing, divining or prophesying) rather than failures, may, as I have said, help to explain the wide-spread belief in mesmerism, even if mesmerism should be false."

—
Therapeutic agency of Mesmerism.—Mention is made in a New Orleans paper of a young lady who, during the mesmeric sleep, had a tooth extracted, without being conscious of any pain. The fact was very astonishing, till it was subsequently ascertained that she had had *sixty-two extracted* before public audiences, to illustrate the wonderful effects of the new science!—*Boston Med. and Surg. Journal.*

Criminal Attempt at Abortion.—A woman died last week at the House of Industry in consequence of an attempt made by a noted quack in this city to procure an abortion. Shortly before her death she made a deposition, stating what had been done, and mentioning the name of the quack. A coroner's inquest was held upon her body at the House of Industry, and the verdict was that the deceased died in consequence of drugs administered by Martin L. Peters, for the purpose of procuring an abortion. The drug was given under the name of "French Renovating Pills." A warrant has been issued for Peters's arrest, but, as might be expected, the return has been *non est inventus*.—*Ibid.*

Quackery.—A fatal case of empirical treatment lately took place in Wurtsboro, (N. Y. we suppose,) an infusion of tobacco and the entrails of some animal having been, it is said, the active agents in the hands of the quack whose name was John Hollister. —*Ibid.*

MEDICAL NEWS. DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

Suum cuique.—It is stated in an article in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, credited to the *London Medical Times* and *London Medical Gazette*, that a Dr. Tanesville has employed with advantage creosote as a remedy in certain diseases of the conjunctiva and cornea. The reader will be somewhat surprised to learn that the real author of the practice is Dr. C. C. Hildreth, of Zanesville, Ohio, whose paper, originally published in the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences* for Oct. 1842, has been generally noticed in the foreign journals, and now comes back to us with the author's name changed, by some sleight-of-hand trick of that mischievous personage, the printer's devil, from Hildreth to Tanesville!

Cyclopaedia of Practical Medicine.—The 12th part of this valuable work, completing the 2d vol., has just been issued. There can be no doubt that the whole will be completed within the next six months.

Smith and Horner's Anatomical Atlas.—Part III. of this splendid *Atlas* is before us, and we learn that Parts IV. and V. will be issued early in the present month.

Journal of Health.—We are indebted to Dr. G. Mendenhall for a number of this useful journal. It is conducted by the physicians of the Cincinnati Dispensary and Vaccine Institution. Its object is to diffuse among the public a general knowledge of the laws that govern health, and of the causes which produce disease. It is published monthly at \$1 25 per annum. We are flattered at finding in it so many extracts from our own pages.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

Gunshot wound of the heart.—Mr. FUGE has in his museum a specimen of this injury, in which the musket-ball passed through the intercostal muscles, entered the right ventricle at the root of the pulmonary artery, passed through the membranous portion of the tricuspid valve, and fell into the right auricle, where it was found after death. The patient, a soldier wounded at Corunna, survived the wound thirteen days.—*Prov. Med. and Surg. Journal.*

Fresh Vaccine Lymph.—M. MAJENDIE announced to the Academy of Sciences, May 27th, that he had met with the cow-pox in a cow which belonged to him. Dr. Fiard has vaccinated many infants with it, and genuine vaccine pustules were developed. M. Majendie placed the cow at the disposal of the Academy.

Changes of Temperature produced by the Rarefaction and Condensation of Air.—J. P. JOULE, Esq., in order to estimate with greater accuracy than has hitherto been done the quantities of heat evolved or absorbed during the condensation or rarefaction of atmospheric air, contrived an apparatus where both the condensing pump and the receiver were immersed in a large quantity of water, the changes in the temperature of which were ascertained by a thermometer of extreme sensibility. By comparing the amount of force expended in condensing air in the receiver with the quantity of heat evolved, after deducting that which was the effect of friction, it was found that a mechanical force, capable of raising 823 pounds to the height of one foot, must be applied in the condensation of air, in order to raise the temperature of one pound of water one degree of Fahrenheit's scale. In another experiment, where air condensed in one vessel was allowed to pass into another

from which the air had been exhausted, both vessels being immersed in a large receiver full of water, no change of temperature took place, no mechanical power having been developed.—*Proceedings of Royal Society, Athenaeum.*

Fluorine.—Drs. Will and Fresenius have detected fluorine in the ashes of plants—it exists in all the cereals. It has been found in the bones of all recent animals thus far examined, and also in fossil bones.

Preparation of Proto-Lactate of Iron.—Take two pounds of sour milk, one ounce of sugar of milk, and one ounce of iron filings; mix, and allow the mixture to stand for several days at a temperature of from 86° to 104° Fahrenheit, taking care to stir it frequently. As soon as the sugar of milk is dissolved, add another ounce; and when a sufficient quantity of proto-lactate of iron has been produced, which is seen by the deposition of a white crystalline powder, the mixture is boiled, and filtered boiling hot into a vessel which admits of being closely stopped. On cooling, the salt is deposited in crystalline crusts. The separation, however, is completed only after the lapse of several days. The fluid is then decanted, the crusts broken and washed repeatedly with cold water, and the salt dried upon bibulous paper at a moderate heat, as quickly as possible. Lactate of zinc may be prepared in the same manner.—Prof. Wohler, *Annal. der Chemie.*—*Lancet*, May 18th, 1844.

Preparation and Preservation of Ointments.—M. DESCHAMPS, in "*The Journal de Pharmacie*," has thrown out a suggestion upon this subject which deserves attention. He made many experiments, he says, first, to ascertain whether the several varieties of fat may, in all cases, be used indiscriminately; and, second, whether any means can be devised to prevent fats from becoming rancid, which must greatly impair their value. He found that an ointment, prepared by heating the buds of the *poplar* in melted lard, is subject to very little alteration by keeping; and it therefore occurred to him that, as this may depend upon a portion of resin extracted from the poplar-buds, a small proportion of gum benzoin might answer a similar purpose. On pre-

paring these ointments and keeping them for several years, he found they had undergone no change, no approach to rancidity. Iodide of potassium is a very excellent test of any acidity in fat. And by this test he found that no admixture with fat tends to preserve it from change so well as benzoin or poplar-buds; the latter produces an orange-yellow colour, but its colour is not affected by long keeping, even mixed with acetate of lead.

Fat or lard, thus prepared with poplar-buds, or gum benzoin, then, is the best possible basis for ointments containing metallic substances, red oxide of mercury, acetate of lead, iodide of potassium, &c.; with essential oils it makes lip-salve, and an application to blisters very much preferable to ordinary ointments.—*Ibid.*

Remedial Properties of Naphthaline.—
M. DUPASQUIER has recommended the use of naphthaline as an expectorant. On placing a grain on the tongue a sense of heat spreads over the palate and into the fauces, and excites coughing with expectoration of mucus; and it may be employed for this purpose in preference to balsam of tolu or ammoniacum. In chronic catarrh of old people, attended with difficult expectoration, naphthaline has been found very efficacious. It may be conveniently given in the form of lozenges, syrups, or mixed into a linctus with honey, conserve of hips, &c.—*Ibid.*

Preparation of Extracts.—Mr. SCANLAN drew the attention of the Pharmaceutical Society to the preparation of the green extracts, previously deprived of their albumen. He observed that, several years ago, in conjunction with his late partner, Mr. Hunt, of Dublin, he was in the habit of preparing annually large quantities of belladonna extract, which was cultivated in the ground attached to the factory. At first, there were constant complaints of the extract becoming mouldy, but, ever since the plan of separating the albumen was adopted, this extract, as well as that of henbane, kept without moulding for years. The mode of separating the albumen is this: you let the expressed juice of the plant operate upon stand till the chlorophylle has separated, then decant the clear liquor and heat it to about 140°, when the albumen coagulates, and is very readily separated by a strainer. The filtered liquor is now evaporated, and the chloro-

phylle stirred in as the extract thickens. Extracts prepared in this way are much smoother than if the albumen be suffered to remain, and will keep any length of time. The amount of the albumen is so small as compared to the whole extract, that it does not materially affect the strength of the preparation. It would be well if the framers of the Pharmacopeia would direct the chlorophylle also to be separated, as it, as well as the albumen, is inactive. In an accurate experiment Mr. Scanlan made upon the juice of conium, he found the coagulated albumen to be to the extract without the chlorophylle as 1 to 10, that is, a portion of juice freed completely from chlorophylle by filtration, coagulated by heat and filtered again, gave 1 part of albumen and 10 parts of extract; and two experiments from equal quantities of expressed juice, gave:

Extract free from albumen, but containing chlorophylle, 40.

Extract containing both, 47 : 100 :: 40 : 85, 15 per cent.—*Med. Times*, Aug. 1844.

Extirpation of the Spleen.—Dr. BENTHET communicated to the Academy of Medicine on the 9th of July, the case of a man who in a quarrel was wounded in the left hypochondrium. Eight days after, when Dr. B. was called to the patient, he found a large tumour formed by the spleen, which was gangrenous; he removed it, and by an appropriate treatment, cured his patient, who lived 13½ years after the accident. Digestion took place as usual, and the individual enjoyed good health. The man ultimately died of pneumonia; at the autopsy, the remains of the spleen were found to be no larger than a filbert, and were adherent to the stomach.—*Med. Times*, July 20.

On the exclusion of Atmospheric Air in the treatment of certain local diseases. By MARSHALL HALL, M. D.—Some years ago I attended a fatal case of peritonitis. On a post-mortem examination I was struck with the florid-red appearance of those parts of the intestines which were contiguous and adherent to the abdominal parietes, and the perfectly pale condition of those other parts of the intestinal canal which were contiguous and adherent to each other. Both surfaces were equally covered with a layer of rather opaque and moderately consistent coagulable lymph. I could only account for

the difference in the appearance of these two portions of the same intestine by supposing that one was affected by the absorption of oxygen from the atmospheric air, whilst from the other this gas was excluded.

It is usual in the Parisian hospitals to trust the treatment of pleuritis greatly to the application of cataplasms. I confess that when I first heard of this mode of treatment I thought it trifling. I have since considered that these cataplasms may entirely exclude the influence of the atmospheric air, and thus prove of real efficacy. But whatever may be the *rationale*, the fact remains as I have stated it, and where the treatment of pleuritis consists greatly in the application of mere cataplasms, a post-mortem in this disease is scarcely or not to be obtained, so generally do the patients recover.

I have now to add a fact from my own personal experience. I have recently seen the most satisfactory result, both in pleuritis and peritonitis, from the assiduous application of cataplasms of powdered linseed.

It is probably by the exclusion of the atmospheric air that other remedies for inflammatory diseases act; the various plasters, the nitrate of silver, even blisters, have this effect. I do not, however, mean to insinuate that they have no other. Cataplasms may further act by their warmth and moisture. The nitrate of silver possesses some extraordinary power over the actions which constitute or coincide with inflammation. But, certainly, mere adhesive plasters have an efficacy in cases of chronic chest affection, in lumbago, sciatica and other forms of rheumatism, in neuralgia and even of scirrhus, which cannot be easily explained.

One of my patients, a martyr to extensive sciatica, was desired to envelop the limb in adhesive plaster. He was a joiner, and an ingenious man. He prepared the common stocking material with glue, dissolved in the proportion of one ounce to two pints of water, and had it spread over, when dry, with galbanum plaster, and if this exuded it was dusted with flour. By the steady application of this plaster his severe rheumatism was cured.

I was once informed by a celebrated physician that he had prescribed adhesive plaster to be applied over a scirrhus tumour of the mamma. It remained adherent for years, and the disease remained stationary. The plaster then separated, and from that period the disease pursued its devastating progress.

Certain modes of the treatment of burns consist in excluding the influence of the atmospheric air.

Some affections of the face are remedied by applying a layer of gelatine. Isinglass is dissolved in water, and the solution is applied with a camel's-hair pencil, and allowed to dry. I have just witnessed some very remarkable effects of this mode of treatment, which I will communicate hereafter.

—*Lancet*, July 20, 1844.

Inhalation of Oxygen Gas an antidote to poisoning with carbonic acid.—An individual, in the course of some pharmaceutical experiments, inhaled a large quantity of carbonic acid. Removed into another chamber, he lay motionless, the eyes closed and the face a pale yellow, the cheeks, together with the lips, tongue and hands, were livid; the pupils were fixed and somewhat dilated; all the senses had entirely disappeared; the carotids beat violently; the action of the heart was frequent but weak, the pulse scarcely perceptible, and the breathing weak and irregular. The cold douche, bleeding and other means were unsuccessfully had recourse to. A quantity of oxygen gas was then prepared, and this he was made to inhale, to the extent of two quarts and a half. In about fifteen minutes he rallied, as if from a deep sleep, and recovery was progressive. The use of the oxygen gas is in this case sufficiently evident. We have seen the chlorate of potass, which contains a large amount of oxygen, administered under similar circumstances, with a most beneficial result. This case is recorded at length in the *Northern Journal of Medicine*.—*Ibid.*

The Banat Fever in Hungary.—Temesvar is the most important town in the whole Banat,—the principal place of residence of the Servian nobility of the province, and the headquarters of the Banat fever. All along the road I had been told, “When you come to Temesvar you will see what the fever is. The people there creep about with pale faces, and almost every one you meet is an invalid.” This account I found literally true. At the very entrance of the town I met a wagonful of these poor fever-sick people, who, I was told, were going outside the town to look for a certain herb, supposed to be more efficacious as a cure for the fever, than all the doctors' medicines. After driving through a long suburb and across a

broad marshy glacis, I at length reached the inner kernel of the fortress, and stopped at a very excellent inn called "The Trumpeter," whence I went to pay a visit to an official personage, to whom I had a letter. His valet came to me with a slow heavy step, and a dejected look, and begged I would be so good as to call the following day, as his master had the fever, and was just then in a paroxysm in bed. I asked what was the matter with himself, that he seemed so cast down? "Ah, sir," he replied, "I've got the fever too." From this house I proceeded to another, where lived a lady, to whom I was charged, by some friends in Vienna, to pay my respects. "Oh, sir," said the waiting-maid, "my lady has had the fever these three years, and she is just now at her worst." Opinions are very various as to the cause of this distressing malady. By some it is ascribed to the fruit, especially to the watermelons; by others to the bad water; by others to the marshes, where arise that other plague to the country, the gnats. The latter opinion seems the most probable, when the position of the town is considered. It lies, notwithstanding its name, not on the Temes, but on the Vega, in the midst of the many marshes which the latter stream forms. In summer, the heat is suffocating, and for weeks together there is sometimes a perfect calm. An attempt has been made to remedy the evils by means of a canal, twenty German miles long, which serves not only to drain the country, but from Temesvar downwards is used for the purposes of navigation; but one canal is quite inadequate to meet the extent of the evil. The country must be intersected in every direction, like Holland or Egypt, before any good can be done. In this extremely hot summer the fever had been dreadful. The inner fortress of the town felt like a brake's oven, and the air was so close and sultry that a person coming in from the country could scarcely breathe in it. The great majority of the population had been attacked by the malady, and even those who were said to be free from it felt more or less unwell. Of the two thousand soldiers of the garrison, nine hundred were in the hospital in one week, and there they had to lie or stand, and get through the fever as well as they could. The garrison became at last so enfeebled that it was found impossible to get through the ordinary duty.—This Banat fever exhibits itself under forms as various as the gourds and melons that

grow in the country. With some the attacks occur every day, with others every night. In some cases it appears as an intermittent fever, but the attacks return sometimes every second day, sometimes every third or fourth day, and these are said to be the severest cases. The symptoms also vary in almost every instance, some being attacked the very day they enter the city, others not till they have lived in it a considerable time. A journey to Pesth will often rid a man of his fever, but this rule is liable to exceptions, as there are persons who have left the country, and yet retained their fevers for years. During the first days of my stay at Temesvar, I could absolutely find nobody who was free from fever, so I resolved to employ some time in rambles about the city and environs.—*Kohl's Austria.*

Hippuric Acid in Human Urine.—Experiments made in the Laboratory at Giessen on the urine of many persons, have shown that hippuric acid is a constant constituent of normal human urine.

Sydenham Society.—We have just received the complete works of Sydenham, edited by Dr. Greenhill, published by this society. This, with the two volumes previously published, viz., Dr. Babington's translation of Hecker's "Epidemics of the Middle Ages," and Prof. Walshe's translation of "Louis on Phthisis," received about three months since, complete the works issued for the first year's subscription.

The first volume of the works of Paulus Ægineta, translated and edited by F. Adams, Esq., are announced to be already in press, and several others in forward state for the second year's subscription.

Wm. B. Carpenter, M. D., F. R. S., well known in this country by his admirable work on physiology, has been elected Fullerian Professor of Physiology to the Royal Institution of Great Britain.

Obituary.—Dr. John Hallam, well known by his practice and writings in connection with the treatment of Mental Diseases, died on the 20th of July, in the 81st year of his age.

Dr. Dalton, the celebrated chemist and founder of the Atomic Theory, died suddenly at Manchester on the 27th of July last, in the 78th year of his age.

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